

## U.S. Coast Guard's National Pollution Fund Center (NPFC) Claims Process

### Questions for the NPFC:

1-800-280-7118

[www.uscg.mil/npfc/claims](http://www.uscg.mil/npfc/claims)

### To submit a claim:

US COAST GUARD STOP 7100 (ca)

4200 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1000

Arlington, Virginia 20598-7100

- NPFC administers the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, which is governed by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.
- Before filing a claim with NPFC, individuals, businesses, and local governments must first file a claim with BP as the Responsible Party. States may choose to file claims directly with NPFC.
- If BP denies the claim OR the claim goes unsettled for 90 days, claimants may then apply to the NPFC. Parties will not be able to file a claim with the NPFC without first applying to BP.
- Types of claims available under the NPFC:
  - **Real and personal property damage**: damage or economic loss related to the destruction or harm of real or personal property. **Example**: the owner or leaser of a **boat may submit a claim to have the boat cleaned**.
  - **Loss of profits and earning capacity**: due to the injury or loss of real property, personal property, or natural resources. **Example**: **Shrimpers** who cannot operate due to the closed Gulf waters; **seafood producers and packers**; businesses affected by the reduced tourism such as **hotels, restaurants, charter tours**.
  - **Loss of Government Revenue or Increased Public Services**: State and local governments may apply for loss of taxes or other revenue due to injury or destruction of real property, personal property, or natural resources. **Example**: **city parking revenue from a lot near a public beach that has been closed due to the spill**. Governments may also apply for providing increased public services directly attributed to the oil spill. **Example**: **emergency traffic control in the vicinity of the incident**.
  - **Natural Resources**: ONLY Federal, State, foreign and Indian tribal governments may apply for damage or loss of natural resources including land, fish, drinking water, and air.
- Any claimant that can document a loss may file a claim, but claims are not guaranteed to be paid.
- **Damage claims must be made with in 3 years** of when “the damage and its connection with the spill was reasonably discoverable with the exercise of due care” (NPFC Claimant’s Guide, Page 6).
- **Removal costs must be made with in 6 years** “after the date of completion of all removal actions for the incident” (NPFC Claimant’s Guide, Page 6).
- **Adjudication Process**: Once NPFC sends a claimant a determination, the claimant must accept or reject the offer with in 60 days:
  - If the claimant accepts, they must sign a release.
  - If no action is taken within 60 days, the offer to pay will be voided and the claim closed.
  - If the claimant rejects the offer, they may provide additional information and ask NPFC to reconsider the claim. This may start an entirely new review process.